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## PSD Connect

A quarterly E-Newsletter

Year 3 - No. 3  
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**The PSD Connect is a quarterly e-newsletter published by the Partnership for Sustainable Development (PSD) Nepal to inform all their partners, ex-volunteers and good wishers, about our activities and news. PSD Nepal is a not-for-profit social development organization dedicated to the alleviation of poverty of Children and youth of rural Nepal. For more information please visit [www.psdnepal.org](http://www.psdnepal.org).**

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### MESSAGE FROM EDITORIAL

Dear Friends!

We would like to thank you for your warm responses to our newsletter as usual! Since our previous editions of our newsletters have been such a great success, we enthusiastically present our next issue. This issue focuses on our volunteers and their achievements during this summer in different project sites. In addition, this newsletter will provide a brief update of the projects that have been completed, the current political situation in Nepal, PSD-Nepal's envisions of the future, and of course how you can support us. Please feel free to write to us, if you have any announcement, article and message you want to spread out through our newsletter. We heartily welcome your views and your comments, queries regarding the work of PSD-Nepal and/or regarding the improvement of the newsletter! You can send us an email to [psdnepal@mail.com.np](mailto:psdnepal@mail.com.np) or call us at (9771)-4780369, fax 4780631.

*Bishnu H. Bhatta*

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### LATEST PSD NEWS

The constituent assemble election has been completed peacefully. The new government has been formed under the leadership of Maoist Leader Puspa Kamal Dahal "Prachanda" with support from United Maxist Leninist and Madheshi Jana Adhikar Forum. Nepali congress is taking responsibilities of the opposition party in the constituent assemble. The eastern part of Nepal has been flooded due to the collapse of an embankment of Koshi River and more then 100000 people have been displaced, with many people missing feared dead. The river has changed its course and is now running through the villages. Sixteen kilometres of the East West Highway was also damaged by the floods so there is currently no road access connecting east and west Nepal. This has meant that people have to cross Nepal via India where they have been facing lots of trouble there, from police and looting. **We at PSD are currently planning to work on the rehabilitation of the flood victims so that we are requesting to join hands. If you or any organization you know are interested in helping the flood victims, we at PSD would be more than happy to facilitate the resources to those in need.**

This summer, 7 students from Edinburgh University, 4 from Dundee University, 10 from Bristol University, 10 from Oxford University, 11 from Glasgow University and 7 from Birmingham University have completed their 6 weeks placement at end of August in different rural school and community. Also there are two elective medical students from Southampton University worked in Kanti Children hospital and Primary Health Care Center in Chapagaun. There are two volunteers who came from Wales to work in rural school in Chitwan. They will be helping to renovate toilets and will be teaching in the school.

Students from the Scott Creek Primary School, South Australia and HEMS school, Kathmandu have been communicating with each others to share their culture, development, school and their personal interest. The students from the Australian School are planning to raise the fund for a drinking water project in the rural school of Nepal.

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## A New Generation for Nepal

Calum Blander, Dundee University

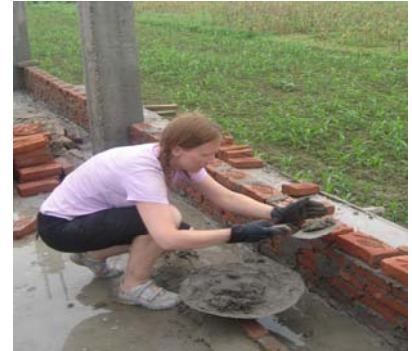
On arriving in our village we were greeted by something I'd never experienced before - total absolute gratitude. The people of Nepal throughout our trip were caring, gentle, passionate, and tried their hardest to show us a good time. One thing that impressed me was their happy nature and spirit despite their obvious lack of opportunities, conditions and facilities. They are obviously a nation that deserves a lot better and we instantly went about trying to deliver some of their wishes. Upon arriving we were asked to help with not only the building of an extension to the school, including four more classrooms, but also the teaching of the upper grades English and maths and if any time became available, the painting and re-decorating of existing classrooms.



Arriving at Siddhartha L S School.



Anthony Teaching with Grade Eight.



Volunteers laying bricks

As it turned out plenty of time became available in the seemingly odd and early Nepalese daily schedule. We woke at 5.30am to begin work at the school at six, not easy for a bunch of students! We then worked usually until 11am. This was a period of time in the day which pushed our enthusiasm and energy to the limits. The Nepali people surviving largely on two meals a day - the first not being until after you have worked all morning, this fact becomes even harder to cope with when both meals, the other not until 8 or 9 o'clock at night are the same. 'Daal Bhat' or to us Rice and Lentils, especially as the first meal of a day, can be hard to stomach, but we knew what to expect when we went out there and the speed the school progressed at pressed us on in good spirit. Teaching the enthusiastic children was a pleasure and by the time we'd spent five weeks in the village I'd like to think they learnt a lot from us and probably taught us even more!

We saw some amazing sights and gained some great memories not only in our weeks in the village but also from the time travelling throughout Nepal. From the hustle and bustle of Kathmandu to Pokhara's picturesque setting and the wildlife (and sun!) of Chitwan we got to experience many firsts; white water rafting; 'driving' and washing elephants; learning a new language; Nepalese dancing; roof riding on buses; seeing beautiful temples; and riding down the country's dirt tracks on a motorbike. We had a fantastic time and made some great friends. I personally have come back to the U.K a more positive person, taking heed of the local's smiles and good nature, despite their impoverished conditions. We are so lucky where we are born and it was really special to help a unique and in need nation such as Nepal. Along with the growing number of participating volunteer groups we can really make a difference.

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## An Experience of Volunteering in Rural Nepal

Olli Hughes - Volunteer, ODA 2008

When we woke one cold, grey, late-August morning to find that twelve hours of heavy rainfall had caused the collapse of the near-completed community centre we had worked for four weeks to build, we could have been forgiven for thinking that this was one PSD Nepal project that might not come to fruition. The weary expressions of the village masons as they picked through the rubble of our construction site told its own story; it reminded us of the difficulties that face any development initiative in this country, where the turbulence of the monsoon season matches that of the economy. We had already seen our village Women's Group meet the extra building costs caused by rapid inflation in the price of raw materials - now the local volunteers would have to redo weeks of careful and intricate labour. Five of us volunteers from Oxford Development Abroad and our Nepali counterpart had come to the small village of Bhakunde, in the western district of Baglung, for our five-week placement; another group of five was based across the wide valley in the similarly-sized Bhipokhara, roofing a school and installing smokeless stoves. A nine-hour drive from Kathmandu, Baglung's only urbanized bazaar lay between us on the valley floor. Bhakunde perched on the side of a hill, a collection of scattered houses, terraced rice paddies and maize fields, and groves of lemon and banana trees linked by steep stone paths. On a clear day we had an



unobstructed view of snowy Dhaulagiri, the seventh-highest mountain in the world, as well as the peaks of the Annapurna range. The idyllic setting was complimented by the warmth of the villagers in welcoming us and accommodating us from our first day. We were given daal bhaat and tarkaari in abundance, snacked on fried maize and beaten rice, and were plied with black tea, sweet dough, floury roti, rice pudding, mangoes and pomegranates. Our host had given up his two-roomed house for us to live in; we even had a makeshift shower constructed for us!



Volunteers making Smokeless stove



Under construction community center



Soak Pit

Our work was divided between teaching English in the local Primary and Lower Secondary schools, and the construction, where we invariably found jobs ranging from carrying bags of cut rocks down a steep hill, to lopping down thick bamboo branches for scaffolding, or digging a pit for the toilet, or fetching sand from the river-bed 1,600m below us. It was varied, engaging, challenging, and rewarding. And yet, just over a week later, we were sitting in the completed building enjoying our vibrant, colourful, and heart-felt farewell ceremony. The villagers had rallied to the cause of rebuilding with typical Nepali stoicism. PSD had sent a representative within two days to oversee the new work schedule, and we had helped in any way possible, shifting earth and bricks or mixing cement. After ten days of concerted effort, now we were able to see our and the village's investment put to use. Some of our pupils performed a song written for the occasion under the tin-roof awning, while the Women's Group led the Nepali dancing (the masons reluctantly joining in!). We were presented with armfuls of flowers and gifts and daubed with red tikka powder. Lengthy speeches by many members of the VDC praised the achievements of our joint endeavours.



Under construction building



Volunteers planting trees



Volunteer is teaching

At the end of our time in Bhakunde, there was no doubt in our minds that what we had helped to build was something that would bring a lasting benefit to the community, serving as a public meeting-place, a store room for records and documents, and as a physical testament to the fruits of co-operative labour. In the process we had all enjoyed a profoundly enriching experience – one that we would all highly recommend!

### Glimpse of volunteers summer programme 2008



Nearly completed community centre



Community Center under construction



After doing hard work for a month, volunteers are holding meeting newly built community centre.



	<p>Volunteers and women's group celebrating farewell in the same building they built for women's group</p> <p>Volunteers participating in rice planting festival in the placement. They were in national newspaper and national news in television</p>	
 <p>Volunteer painting world map in the ceiling of the library for the students</p>	 <p>Two roomed building built by volunteers</p>	 <p>Volunteers taking test to the students in the classroom</p>
 <p>Volunteers prepare nature friendly class room for nursery students</p>	 <p>Volunteers painting class room to make the dark room bright and pleasing for students to study in.</p>	 <p>Volunteers decorating nursery classes nature friendly</p>

### **FUTURE PLANS: Coming events of PSD-Nepal**

- PSD-Nepal will be organizing in house training on "Capacity Building" to different organizations in the coming month.
- We are currently preparing for next year Easter and summer project. We are in the process of collecting the requests for projects from different schools and communities for next year project.
- PSD-Nepal is organizing two "Health Camps" with general health check-ups for the rural community of Nepal.
- There are a number of individuals who are interested in doing internships with PSD-Nepal and its partner organizations. We are grateful toward the entire interns as their support for PSD-Nepal enables us to meet our objectives.
- Our secretary Mr Rajendra Mulmi is going to study International Development Studies at Sussex University in September 2008. We at PSD wish him all the best for his studies and thank him for all his work. His responsibilities as PSD secretary has been taken over by Mr Narayan Adhikari.
- Treasurer, Mr Tirtha Poudel has taken over the additional responsibility of director in one of the project of the Youth Initiative; we take this opportunity to wish him success with this new project and hope he will continue the fine work he has been doing with PSD-Nepal.

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